

THE GENERIC NAME *RADICULA*

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REFERRING to Prof. Fernald's article on *Roripa islandica* (RHODORA 31: 17, 1929) I wish to raise the query whether under the Vienna (Brussels) code the name *Radicula* (Hill British Herbal 264 1756) should not be used instead of the later name *Roripa* (Scop. Fl. Carn. 520 1760).

The only reason at all for its rejection is a very arbitrary and silly provision of that code as follows:

"Art. 54. Names of genera must be rejected in the following special cases:

"1. When they coincide with a technical name concurrently used in morphology, unless they are accompanied by specific names . . .

"Examples.—Generic names such as *Lignum*, *Radix*, *Spina*, *Radicula* etc. would not now be admissible; on the other hand a generic name like *Tuber* should not be rejected when it has been published with specific names (*Tuber cibarium*, etc.)."

One can understand the logic in rejecting a name of the class referred to for the reason given, although it does not appeal to me, but it is certainly hard to understand why such a name otherwise to be rejected should become available for the reason given. If a name is objectionable because used in morphology it seems to me that it is still open to that objection if published with specific names. However, the rule is as given.

Hill did not use the binomial system, but he did give specific names both in English and in Latin under his genus *Radicula*, as follows: (1) Pinnate-leaved water Radish. *Radicula foliis pennatifidis*; and (2) Serrated-leaved water Radish. *Radicula foliis serratis*. He further illustrated both species (plate 38).

It will be noted that Hill's publication quite complied with the rule quoted, which does not require binomial specific names at all. His name of course is the proper name for those who follow priority.

Why anyone should go out of the way to invalidate such an unusually fine piece of work as Hill's publication of *Radicula* is very hard indeed to understand. Scopoli's genus *Roripa* (originally spelled *Rorippa* or *Roriopa* in the Index p. 599) (Fl. Carn. 520 1760), taken up in its place, was most superficially characterized and was soon abandoned by its author (Fl. Carn. ed. 2 2: 25 1772).

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